

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BISCHOFF BILL BRINGING NEW COURT TO DEARBORN COUNTY GOES TO GOVERNOR

INDIANAPOLIS – House Bill 1141, legislation authored by State Rep. Bob Bischoff (D-Lawrenceburg) that will bring a new superior court to Dearborn County, is going to the governor for final approval.

If approved by the governor, the court will come into existence on July 1, 2005 and the governor will be responsible for filling the position.

Dearborn County is now ranked fifth among Indiana counties for the severity of its need for a new court. The civil docket is currently backlogged up to a year and a half and the criminal docket has increased substantially. The population has doubled in recent years--from approximately 25,000 residents in 1990 to almost 50,000 in 2000--and all indications show that Dearborn County will continue to grow. In order to confront current and future docket problems, it is imperative that a court be established in the near future.

"The addition of a superior court to Dearborn County will be extremely beneficial in removing the backlog of cases that have built up over the years," Bischoff said.

Dearborn County has been dealing with a judicial shortage for years. The county has attempted to stave off the backlogging of cases by using special judges and mediators, but the need for a new court is acute.

Dearborn County officials have been planning and putting aside money for the new superior court and they have said that they will do everything possible on their part to ensure that the county receives a new superior court.